

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5433

S E C R E T CAIRO 9865

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG US

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI NUCLEAR POWER AGREEMENTS

1. MESSAGE WHICH MUHAMMED RIAD CONVEYED TO ME THIS EVENING FROM FAHMY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF SUBJECTS HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH ME EARLIER IN THE DAY. INSTEAD, FAHMY WANTS TO RE-OPEN THREE ISSUES IN CONNECTION WITH NUCLEAR REACTOR AGREEMENT, TEXT OF WHICH PRIMIN APPROVED A FEW DAYS AGO AND AN IDENTICAL TEXT OF WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE ISRAELI CABINET LAST SUNDAY. FAHMY'S SUGGESTIONS, IS SEEMS, ARE THE RESULT OF STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MFA LEGAL ADVISOR, WHO HAS ONLY NOW --- BELATEDLY -- GOTTEN INTO ACT.

2. I TOLD RIAD THAT (A) THROWING THESE NEW PROPOSALS INTO THE HOPPER AT THIS LATE DATE, AND ESPECIALLY AFTER THE ISRAELIS HAVE APPROVED THE IDENTICAL TEXT, IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO KILL EVEN PRESENT SLIGHT POSSIBILITY OF GETTING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL THIS YEAR AND (B) AS I UNDERSTOOD USG POSITION ON SAFEGUARDS, FAHMY'S SUGGESTIONS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED BY MINISTER GUEBEILI AND WERE FOUND TO BE UNACCEPTABLE AND WOULD DOUBTLESS AGAIN BE UNACCEPTABLE. RIAD THEN ASKED THAT I NOT RPT NOT SEND IN DETAILS TODAY. HE WANTS TO HAVE ANOTHER GO AT FAHMY TOMORROW, WHEN ISMAIL

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ARRIVES IN CAIRO AROUND NOON, IN AN EFFORT TO GET HIM TO

DROP THESE SUGGESTIONS. I ALSO OFFERED DISCUSS MATTER WITH FAHMY TO IMPRESS UPON HIM PERSONALLY LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT HE IS NOW PROPOSING. IF FAHMY REMAINS ADAMANT, DETAILS WILL BE SENT TOMORROW.

3. RIAD WAS EMBARRASSED ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR. QUERIED HOW ONE RECONCILES PRIMIN'S APPROVAL OF TEXT AND FAHMY'S BELATED SUGGESTIONS, RIAD SAID HE DID NOT KNOW. ALL HE COULD DO WAS PASS ON FAHMY'S MESSAGE. HE ALSO COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY, AFTER ALL OUR PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBJECT, FAHMY SHOULD NOW, AFTER ALL OTHER CONCERNED GOE OFFICIALS (INCLUDING PRIMIN) HAVE ACCEPTED THE TEXT, RAISE THESE SUGGESTIONS.

4. HOPEFULLY, RIAD AND I CAN PERSUADE FAHMY TO DROP HIS SUGGESTIONS, SINCE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN TEXTS (WE HAVE NOW BEEN TOLD) ARE IDENTICAL. IF NOT, I WILL SEND DETAILS TOMORROW.
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